



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
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April 2, 2004

TO: All Potential Bidders

FROM: Farrell Presnell, RFP 0424-147 Coordinator
DSHS Central Contract Services

SUBJECT: Amendment No. 1 -- DSHS Answers to Bidders' Questions
RFP 0424-147 - Technical Assessment and Cost Benefit Analysis for the
Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information Services (SACWIS)
project.

The following DSHS Answers to Bidders' Questions Numbers 1 through 23 are issued as Amendment No. 1 to the Request for Proposals (RFP) .

DSHS Answers to Bidders' Questions

Note: These DSHS Answers to Bidders' Questions may only explain or clarify some aspect that is already addressed in the RFP. But some of the answers may also supplement or change what was previously stated in the RFP or in an exhibit.

Therefore it is important that bidders review all questions and answers, and not just those which they may have submitted.

1. It is unclear which sections take precedence. Pages 1 and 2 clearly state that proposals will be accepted by mail, hand delivery, fax or e-mail. Page 13, item 11, states that the proposal is to be sent to the RFP Coordinator either by mail or hand delivery and that DSHS will not accept any proposal submitted by fax or email. In Section III, item 2 states that proposals must be submitted on standard eight and one-half by eleven inch white paper. On page 19, item 3, we are asked to submit an original and two copies, in addition to one soft copy on a portable media or electronic readable media of Volume 1 and Volume 2. Will fax or email be allowed?

Email will be allowed; faxed copies will not be allowed.

2. Will involvement in this technical assessment preclude the vendor from any future SACWIS related procurements?

No.

3. It is apparent from the RFP that you want to replace the front-end and extensions, but will the entire backend on the mainframe system and the ADABAS datastore remain?

The RFP requests a technical assessment of the entire computing environment and a cost benefit analysis of recommendations that result from the technical assessment. The assessment includes the database platform, development language, and middleware.

4. Will the current staff maintain the Delphi front-end?

This question is not applicable to the RFP.

5. Is the agency open to different technology alternatives for the front-end and middle-tier replacement, such as .NET or Java?

The RFP requests a technical assessment of the entire computing environment and a cost benefit analysis of recommendations that result from the technical assessment. The assessment includes the database platform, development language, and middleware.

6. Is there any flexibility in the duration of the engagement? If a vendor proposed a 3 month timeline, within the given budget, for completion, is that acceptable?

One to two weeks would be acceptable but not preferable.

7. The new CAMIS GUI application uses Oracle 9i. Is this the database that will replace ADABAS in the future after fully converting the classic CAMIS with CAMIS GUI?

The RFP requests a technical assessment of the entire computing environment and a cost benefit analysis of recommendations that result from the technical assessment. The assessment includes the database platform, development language, and middleware.

8. The Request for Proposal states "The current middleware, SysQL, will no longer be supported and will need to be replaced".
To replace SysQL, some others part of sub-system which interface with SysQL on S/390 will also need to be changed. Those could be RACF authentication sever, Predict metadata server, and maybe ADABAS. Does this mean you would like to replace the entire S/390 Mainframe system with the new system?

The RFP requests a technical assessment of the entire computing environment and a cost benefit analysis of recommendations that result from the technical assessment. The assessment includes the database platform, development language, and middleware.

9. What does the CAMIS GUI client application do besides present read-only views of data? Would it be desirable to replace it with a web application?

The RFP requests a technical assessment of the entire computing environment and a cost benefit analysis of recommendations that result from the technical assessment. The assessment includes the database platform, development language, and middleware.

10. What is the skill set of the current DSHS engineers?

This question is not applicable to the RFP.

11. In Section 6 Experience and Qualifications Proposal, can you please clarify if Item A & B are experiences of the vendor i.e.. Venturi or of the proposed staff for this RFP?

Section 6A refers to the vendor's experience.

Section 6 B is corrected as follows:

Provide a comprehensive overview of specific projects that the staff you are proposing participated in that would compare to what this RFP is requesting in the last three (3) years including:

1. Project title and brief description;
 2. The name and resume of each proposed individual involved in the project;
 3. The proposed individual's role in the project and level of involvement;
 4. Start and end dates;
 5. Reference including contact name, title, and phone number for each of the projects.
 6. Identify proposed individual's familiarity and experience with:
The organization – policies – programs – services - technology of
SACWIS systems.
- a. If Section 6, Item A&B are focused on the vendor, how is this section different from the Reference Section in Section 4, Item C? And if it is the same, then can we reuse one of the references in Section 6?

The references in 4C are bidder/vendor specific. The references in 6B are staff specific, not vendor specific, but they could be the same if the reference is for the same project.

12. Section 5 Methods Proposal is referred to in other areas as the Technical Proposal. Should we use a heading of Technical Proposal or Methods?

Please use METHODS PROPOSAL.

13. In Section 4, Item B is asking for additional documents to be included in a specific location within the proposal , however these documents i.e.. Business License and Certificate of Assurances will not be numbered. Is this ok? Or would it be ok to put them as an Appendix and reference them within the appropriate location within the proposal?

As long as they are in the proper order within the Administration Requirements Proposal section, we should be able to figure it out.

14. Can you please verify that you are looking for 2 separate proposals. The first to include Administrative Requirements Proposal, Technical Proposal & Experience & Qualifications Proposal. The second to include Cost Proposal? Or are you looking for 4 separated proposals?

We are looking for two separate volumes. The first to include Administrative Requirements Proposal, Methods Proposal & Experience & Qualifications Proposal. The second to include Cost Proposal.

15. What do you see as the biggest challenges with this project? Issues to be resolved?

The biggest challenge with this project will most likely be the limited time frame for completion. We don't anticipate any extraordinary issues to be resolved.

16. Have you been working with consultants thus far on the SACWIS project? If so, who? Are they allowed to propose on RFP 0424-147?

We contract with a variety of firms for help on the SACWIS project. They are allowed to propose on this RFP.

17. Who are the members of the consultant selection committee?

This information is not available at this time.

18. RFP paragraph I.3.A.4 states a requirement for a Technical Assessment outline, and paragraph I.3.B.3 states a requirement for a Cost Benefit Analysis outline deliverable. Both paragraphs almost state that a sample outline is to be included in the proposal. Please explain the meaning of "sample", i.e., are we to supply samples of previous outlines constructed for other clients/projects, or are we to anticipate the deliverable that will be produced for this project, or something else? Also, is there a specific place within the proposal where the samples should be inserted?

Please include sample outlines based on the described deliverables in Section I, 3.A and 3.B.

19. Does the current system (both legacy and new GUI) support agency business needs beyond those necessary for SACWIS compliance (i.e. does the system contain non-SACWIS features)? If so are there requirements or design documents available for these features and will they be available to the winning vendor?

The CAMIS legacy and GUI systems support the SACWIS business needs of the Administration. All requirements and design documents in existence will be available to the winning vendor.

20. Are the "DSHS Enterprise Architecture solutions (page 5)" referenced in the RFP written down and available to the winning vendor?

The DSHS Enterprise Architecture program is still in development. The principles identified to date will be available to the winning vendor.

21. Is there currently a vendor helping CA with the project in any way? If so who are they and what role do they perform.

We contract with a variety of firms for both development and testing on the SACWIS project.

22. Does the cost-benefit analysis have to conform to ISB standards for a feasibility study, or can it be less formal?

The Cost Benefit Analysis does have to conform to the ISB feasibility study standards.

23. Is the work request to be fixed price, not priced with the hourly rates in the GA contract?

Fixed price per the deliverables defined in Exhibit C.

Clarification/Correction

Section III. PROPOSAL CONTENTS

1. PROPOSAL CONTENTS

The four major sections of the proposal are to be submitted in the order noted below:

- a) Administrative Requirements.
- b) Methods Proposal
- c) Experience and Qualifications Proposal.
- d) Cost Proposal.

Proposals must provide information in the same order as presented in this document with the same headings. All items must be included as part of the proposal for the proposal to be considered responsive, even though certain items may not be scored. Cost proposal should be Volume 2 by itself.